

God wants Relationship with Us

God wants nothing more than to have true, rich, and amazing relationship with each one of us. From the beginning of time, God had a vision of us in His heart. He imagined us, designed us, longed to know us. Then, He decided it was time to bring us forth. Before He did that, He created a beautiful, magnificent home for us (earth), planning each thing with intricate detail, all because He loves us and couldn't wait to fellowship with us.

In a sense, it is like two parents anxiously awaiting the new baby growing inside the mother's womb. They plan for the baby; they safeguard their house; they prepare a beautiful nursery, carefully picking out the colors, the crib, the changing table, toys, furniture, books, clothes, all in anticipation of the amazing gift God is giving them. They are anxious for the relationship between the three of them to start. They prepare from the moment they hear the news of the pregnancy. And after all the careful planning and preparing, the day of the birth comes, and then they bring baby home. They monitor every sound, every sigh, every laugh, every cry, desiring above all else to show this new family member just how much love they have for him or her.

If two good human parents can put that much time and care into their love for their child, how much more so does God? (Luke 11:13). Look around at the beauty of creation on the earth. Can you imagine a more amazing nursery? Can you imagine a more perfect home? And yes, God did put up safe guards in that nursery, the Garden of Eden. He placed man, male and female, in that garden and safeguarded it from all evil. There was water and food and animals, and most importantly, perfect relationship with God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Male and female could actually walk and talk with Him, but even better, they knew Him intimately because they knew Him spiritually. Their spirits were alive in them, and as God had always intended for us, His children, male and female knew Him as they were known (John 14:19-21). They could communicate with God in perfect unity through His Spirit. They knew His thoughts and cares over them, and He knew theirs in return. And like all good parents who know more than their young children, He warned them of what not to do, and He expected them to trust Him at His word. (More will be taught on this in another chapter in regards to the Laws of God).

As I said before, Satan will do whatever it takes to keep us from that relationship with God, especially the fullness of that relationship. Before man was created, God had already created the angels. They live and serve God, but they don't enjoy family relationship and fellowship with Him. They were not designed for that. They were not made in God's image as man, male and female, were (Genesis 1 and 2).

The Bible tells us that Lucifer (Satan) was a cherub and called the seal of perfection, yet because of his iniquity, he was cast from heaven. (Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-15). He had a hierarchy and authority in heaven, and likely the angels he deceived were probably under his authority, which was why he could more easily manipulate them and get them cast out of heaven with him. (Revelation 12:4). We can deduce that he was a worship angel because he had musical instruments as part of his actual body. Also, easy to see why Satan tends to go after musicians to use them for his purposes because he knows how powerful worship is, and he knows that all worship should be given to God alone, so he revels in taking it from God, and in a sense getting the music on earth to point to Satan, himself. (Ezekiel 28:11-19).

Now, many of us have been taught in church that his sin was wanting to be God or be above God, and that may be fully true (Isaiah 14:12-14). But I have learned another concept, and that is that he desired to be like us; he wanted to be man, as King David prophesied in Psalm 8:4, "What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"

Satan had been going back and forth among the revelatory stones of fire (Ezekiel 28:14) and had heard God's heart toward this "man". So, he asked God, "What is man that you are

mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" Did Satan/Lucifer believe God was designing this incredible earth for him or for all the angels? It could be. Satan had to have known that there was no way he could be greater than God; he knew God was Creator. Yet, the concept that he became enraged with jealousy over another created being, man, is very plausible.

Think about what jealousy does. Jealousy poisons and eventually kills, kills relationships, kills ideas, kills creativity, and can actually physically kill. Cain killed Abel over his intense jealousy (hatred) over his brother. Was that just the first act in the world after the Garden of Eden that actually was a representation of what had happened in the Garden itself?

Satan, through the beguiling serpent (more cunning than any beast of the field. Genesis 3:1) had deceived the woman to eat of the fruit, but man was not deceived. He knew exactly what he was doing when he ate it. (Genesis 2:15-17). In eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, man and woman were murdered (although coerced by Satan through the serpent). They were immediately spiritually dead (the first death) and separated from God; they were cast out of the Garden and into a world where evil truly roamed the earth. And because of their sin, they would now surely die physically (the second death), and actually, so would all creation. (Genesis 1-3.)

It is interesting to note that although Satan used his lies to manipulate the death of the man and woman, he did it in such a way that they were responsible for their own death, much like suicide. The connection back to the first recorded human to human murder of Cain and Abel, we see, once again, murder is the evil used. Why? Because Satan knows that life is in the blood; the innocent blood spilled onto the ground fills him with power. When he manipulates us to sin, especially in spilling innocent blood, our yielding to him in this way gives him power. He has no power otherwise. His only power over us is our ignorance and his ability to lie to us, manipulating us through our ignorance. (Hosea 4:6; Genesis 4:10; Leviticus 17:13-14; Isaiah 1:15; Revelation 12:11; 2 Kings 9:7; Revelation 17:1-6; Psalm 106:36-38; Revelation 18:23-24). Life is in the blood; the power is in the blood. How do we know this? "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Again, Life is in the blood. Jesus is Life. Through Jesus blood spilled for us on the cross, He gave us full access back to the Father to have perfect relationship. (Hebrews 10:19-20; John 1:36; John 1:29). From the moment Satan learned of man as being closer to God than he was, he began to burn with jealousy, which turned to hatred and made him our adversary. (1 Peter 5:8).

My opinion: Satan's whole goal has been to keep us from the fullness of relationship with God, which was why we were created in the first place. As if saying, "If I can't have it, they can't have it."

Back to the Garden: What should man have done when the serpent first started talking to the woman? As her husband, a representation of Jesus Christ to the Church (His Bride), the man should have cast the serpent out of the Garden. He had complete authority and dominion over the animals; he is the one who named them (Genesis 2:18-20). He could have done it. He should have stood in protection of his wife. It is hard for us to know all the ins and outs of the account of the Garden because there is not a whole lot written about it, at least not in Genesis. We find bits and pieces throughout the rest of scripture as we dig and ask Holy Spirit to reveal it to us. (Maybe, these things I have shared will inspire you to deep dive with Holy Spirit into scripture, and you will be the one to reveal what you find to the Bride of Christ).

Satan's hatred/jealousy of man is what caused him to want to rip him from the place of honor as part of God's close knit family, and condemn man to a place on the earth where they were now lower than the angels. They once sat in dominion with God as son and daughter. How do we know this? Because when Jesus came to earth, He didn't just die to destroy sin and death; He also re-established the authority and dominion Adam had relinquished when he ate

from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 28:18-20; John 17; John 20:21-23; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:7-8.)

Satan knows we have been given authority and dominion on the earth. He knew the man and woman in the Garden had it, and that's why he wanted to take it away from them and us by causing them to sin and break covenant with God. (Genesis 1 & 2). When Satan tempted Jesus, the Son of man, in the wilderness, it was to get Jesus to give Satan the authority and dominion Satan was now aware Jesus had. (Matthew 4:8-10). How did He know about Jesus' authority? First, when John the Baptist saw Jesus, he proclaimed, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). And second, when Jesus was baptized by John, Father God sent His Spirit to alight on Jesus, and Father God spoke audibly, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17.) Satan and the demons knew exactly who Jesus was in that moment. They couldn't know God's plan for salvation and restoration of the world, but they could certainly guess, God on earth was not going to be a good thing for them. They knew of the prophecies spoken of in the Old Testament and of the teachings of the coming Messiah from the teachers of the Law. They had already been made aware that something was up at the time of Jesus' birth. There was a star in the sky that brought wise men from the East. Because the enemy was aware a baby had been born as a deliverer, he used Herod to call for the death of all male babies up to two years old. (Matthew 2.)

Satan is not stupid; he had to see the parallel of Moses, the first deliverer, and Jesus. He may have seen it quicker than the people did, which is why he worked so hard to have Jesus killed and to twist and distort His birth, death, and resurrection. But, one thing is for certain, one can hide the truth and hide historical fact, but it will not remove the truth of it all taking place, nor hinder the impact of the weight of it. Jesus is the Light of the world and nothing can stop that truth from being fully established over all the earth! (John 8:12).

We have always been in God's plan, always! (Ephesians 1; Jeremiah 1:5). God's greatest desire is relationship with us. He designed us for relationship. How do we know? It is all around us. Most of us ache for real relationship with other people. We long to have people understand us and love us unconditionally. Yet, the only One Who can fulfill our greatest relationship needs is God Himself—because we were designed for relationship with Him. All those desires we have for relationship came from God. And, in truth, to have real, tangible, healthy relationships with other people, we must first have real relationship with God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). The greater our relationship with God, the better our relationships will be with each other.

It is hard for us to think at all like God. He is infinite; we are finite. We have a beginning and an end. God does not. He has always been. He is Creator. Everything we "create" first originated in Him. We use His materials, His ideas, and His ways to "create" things. Everything good we come up with comes from Him first. (James 1:17).

When God designed the world, He already knew the fall of man would take place; Father God knew He would send His Son to the earth as a man to die for the sins of the world. He knew He would have to woo us back to Him, just as is described all through the Song of Solomon. He knew we would be hard hearted, be deceived, and even rail hate speech at Him because we wouldn't understand Who He is nor His real love for us. To God, we have always been worth all of it. Why? Because He knows the end from the beginning. His passion and love and desire for us is so tangible, so real, that He was very willing to be crucified for us, so we could, once again, have an opportunity at real relationship with Him. (Isaiah 46:9-10).

I know many of us have asked, "Where are you in that God? How can you allow this to happen?" Regarding horrible evils or natural disasters in the world. Yet, in the same breath, we want freedom; we don't want to be controlled or forced to have relationship. God designed a perfect place in the Garden of Eden. He made it the most beautiful place on earth. Man and

woman didn't only walk with God, they experienced a closeness with God in the same way Father, Son, and Holy Spirit experienced. Mankind knew God as He knew them. They knew His thoughts toward them without any veil of sin or deceit or lies of the enemy. They knew Him in the most intimate, pure way, and then they chose to believe a lie. And believing that lie killed them and brought sin into the whole world. But, it didn't just bring sin into the world; it broke the perfect, intimate relationship mankind had with God, and at its core, that really is what sin is. It separates us from the most amazing, rich, intimate, and mind blowing relationship we can have with God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). (Isaiah 59:2-3).

I can't imagine the pain and anguish and fear the man and woman felt after they sinned. It would be like being able to see, hear, and know everything perfectly to then being blind, deaf, and only having a shadow of understanding—like having your very breath ripped from your lungs.

All of the time from the Fall to the coming of Jesus, God tried to reveal Himself to the people, through everything around them. But, when you have a dead spirit, how can you possibly relate to God Who is Spirit. They knew their was God; they knew His system of government (explained in another chapter), but they had no idea of Who God really is, not the intimate, kind, and loving Creator Who wanted deep and abiding relationship with them. The only two people on earth who knew that kind of God relationship were Adam and Eve. All peoples after them had no memories of that kind of relationship. They heard the stories from Adam and Eve, but they had nothing of their own to hold onto. And I imagine after Adam and Even died, the stories they once told faded, and it was even harder for those who came after to imagine God relationship.

God, even knowing all that would happen, believed we are worth it, and chose to create the earth and create everything in it, then create us, His greatest love, and then place us on the earth—as a good human parent would do anything possible for the protection of a child and to have healthy relationship with that child, God, as Jesus, literally walked through the fires of hell to rescue us from sin and death, re-establish Spirit filled relationship with us, took back our dominion and authority the enemy had stolen, and gave it back to us. (Revelation 1:18). God knew to have relationship with us was worth the cost of His own life to have us close to Him. Wow!! God IS Absolutely Good!!